domestic legislation have been met on both sides and notifications exchanged to this effect. This process is expected to be completed in the near future.

Permanent Membership of India in Security Council

1122. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US have supported permanent membership to India in the Security Council of the United Nations Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the efforts being made by Government to get the permanent membership and the number of countries in favour of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSEED): (a) to (c) India took the initiative in 1992 in sponsoring the resolution 47/62 entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of Security Council", which was adopted by consensus. Similarly, India played a key role in the adoption of a follow-up resolution 48/26 in 1993. In pursuance of this resolution an open-ended Working Group of the UNGA has been established to consider all aspects of the question of an increase in the membership of the Security Council, and other matters related to the Council. The question of membership of individual countries is not being discussed at this stage in the Working Group.

Discussion on Bilateral Issues between India and Slovakia

1123. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Slovakia recently visited India;

(b) if so, details thereof with details of issues discussed;

(c) whether these issues include bilateral matters;

(d) whether these issues also include sale of latest T-72 Tanks and other defence equipments to India;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether this visit will strengthen the ties between the two countries;

(g) whether Government propose to send some high powered delegation to Slovakia to settle the discussed issues; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSEED): (a) Yes Sir. Mr. Jozef Moravcik, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic paid an official visit to India on July 7-8, 1994

(b) to (h) The Slovak Prime Minister called on President and Vice-President and also had a meeting with Prime Minister in which Ministers and senior officials from both sides were present. MoS(EA) Shri Salman Khurshid called on Prime Minister Moravcik.

Bilateral and international issues of mutual interest were discussed. The Slovak Prime Minister apprised our leadership of his country's position on perception of major global issues, with particular reference to developments in Europe as well as of the internal political and economic situation in Slovakia. He was in turn briefed on the processes of economic liberalisation underway in India and on the Kashmir issue. The Slovak side conveyed that on the Kashmir issue, it favours the Bilateral approach without its internationalisation.

Bilateral matters, in particular prospects of economic cooperation in the light of the ongoing economic changes in India and the Slovak Republic were discussed. Both sides stressed the mutual desire to build upon their past tradition of cooperation

dating back to the period when the Slovak Republic was part of the former Czechoslovakia, and agreed that steps should be taken to revive cooperation in the economic, commercial, defence, S&T, cultural and other fields. Bilateral consular issues were also discussed. It was agreed that arrangements would be made for issuance of visas without charging any visa fees, and for visa free travel to India of holders of Slovak diplomatic/official passports. The Slovak side has indicated interest in reviving defence cooperation with India (which India enjoyed with the former Czechoslovakia). Rajya Raksha Mantri visited the Slovak Republic in June 1994. The Slovak Defence Minister had accompanied Prime Minister Moravcik to India and had separate talks with Rajya Raksha Mantri. The Slovak side have made preliminary offers in regard to certain defence and defence related products which are to be still to be evaluated at the technical and expert level.

Prime Minister Moravcik's visit was the first contact at this level between the two countries. It has improved bilateral understanding and imparted fresh impetus to bilateral Indo-Slovak ties. During the course of the visit, a Protocol on Foreign Office consultations and an MoU on cooperation on S&T were signed. An MoU on the Indo-Slovak Joint Committee on economic and commercial cooperation was also concluded. Separately, CII and the Union of Slovak Industry also signed an MoU. There is at the moment no proposal to send a high powered delegation to the Slovak Republic. Parliamenary elections are due in Slovakia on 30 September — 1 October, 1994.

U.S. Committee suggestion to solve 'Kashmir dispute'

1124. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that U. S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee have made some suggestions to Pakistan for a division of Kashmir along the Line of Actual Control as a solution to the over four decade old dispute;

(b) if so, details thereof with reaction of Government.

(c) whether Government have repeated their stand to Government of U.S.A. that the issue of Kashmir would be settled by two countries in terms of Simla Agreement; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Government are aware that Congressman Lee Hamilton, Chairman of the US House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, during a speech on Indo-US relations in Washington on April 29, 1994 stated that over the course of four-plus decades, the Line of Control dividing Kashmir has taken on the attributes of an international border... The only realistic solution may be to recognize the Line of Control as the international border between Pakistan and India.....Government's position remains that the whole of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) India's position on the Kashmir issue was again conveyed during Prime Minister's meeting with President Clinton in May, 1994. The Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of PM's visit to the US states that "the two leaders agreed on the need for bilateral negotiations between India and Pakistan to resolve outstanding issues, including Jammu & Kashmir, as envisaged in the Simla Agreement".